

**CLAIMS**

1. An internet protocol based system comprising a plurality of entities, at least two of said entities being arranged to use SCTP for signalling therebetween, said SCTP signalling comprising a source port number, a destination port number, and connection identity information relating to a connection between at least two of said entities.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said connection identity information comprises address information.
3. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said address information identifies at least one other further entity.
4. A system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said connection identity information comprises information identifying an application.
5. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said connection identity information identifies a connection flow.
6. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said connection identity information is provided in an SCTP packet.
7. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said connection identity information is provided in the data chunk part of the SCTP packet.
8. A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said connection identity information is provided in a payload protocol identifier field.

9. A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said connection identity information is provided in a field between a stream sequence number field and user data.
10. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said connection identity information is provided in a header for the SCTP packet.
11. A system as claimed in any of claims 6 to 10, wherein said address information is provided in a separate field in said SCTP packet.
12. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein at least one of the two entities is arranged to provide further address information relating to at least one of said two entities.
13. A system as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of said two entities comprises means for sending and/or receiving SCTP packets to and/or from the other of said two entities.
14. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein at least one of said two entities comprises means for setting up SCTP associations.
15. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein at least one of said two entities comprises means for receiving status information relating to SCTP associations.
16. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein at least one of said two entities comprises means for forwarding SCTP packets to a radio network layer in dependence on said connection identity information of said further entity.

17. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein at least one of said two entities comprises means for adding said connection identity information of said further entity to a SCTP packet.

18. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said further entity comprises at least one of the following:

- user terminal,
- user,
- group of users,
- service,
- network, or part of network,
- server, or
- cell or base transceiver station.

19. A system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein one of said entities is one of the following:

base station; controller; radio network controller; core network; radio network access server; gateway or server

and the other of said entities is one of the following:

base station; controller; radio network controller; core network; radio network access server; gateway or server

20. A method for use in an internet protocol based system comprising a plurality of entities, comprising the steps of:

sending SCTP transport signalling information between two of said entities, said SCTP signalling information comprising a source port number, a destination port number, and connection identity information relating to a connection between said two entities.

21. An entity for use in a internet protocol based system, said entity comprising means for sending to another entity an SCTP transport packet, said entity being arranged to include in said packet a source port number, a destination port number, and connection identity information relating to a connection between at least two of said entities.